Action taken to fill up Group 'B' Posts:

The vacant posts of AO have been filled in BSNL by conducting DPC on regular basis. After formation of BSNL, in the last three years, promotion to the grade of AO was ordered in respect of 1716 posts and have been filled up including Gujarat Circle.

SDE (Telecom) is an all India cadre and the posts are filled as per Recruitment rules. The posts are to be filled from the feeder grade of JTOs which is a circle Cadre. There are 27 Recruiting circles. All India eligibility list of JTOs is prepared by interpolating all JTOs at appropriate places, for filling the posts of SDEs by promotion. The posts are also filled through limited departmental competitive examination.

Promotions to the grade of SDEs in accordance with Recruitment Rules, on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness are being made at regular intervals centrally.

Improvement in rural telecom connectivity

1030. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman, National Knowledge Commission has emphasized the need to improve rural telecom connectivity to ensure overall development of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's action plan for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The issue of rural telecom connectivity has not been covered in any of the recommendations submitted by the National Knowledge Commission to the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Development of IT in Indian languages

†1031. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is carrying out any work for the development of information technology in Indian languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and language-wise;

(c) whether any special task force has been set up for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details of its duties alongwith the financial provisions made for it;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether it is intended to give priority to Hindi and regional languages in this action plan;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Information Technology initiated "Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) Programme" with the objective of making available the software tools for information processing in 22 constitutionally recognized Indian languages.

"Indian Language Technology Resource Centres" project was executed at premier academic and research organizations such as IITs, IIITs, IISc Bangalore, CDAC and some universities spread across the country for development of basic software tools for Indian Languages, which have been consolidated under the National Roll-Out Plan for Indian Language Technologies. CDs containing Software tools and fonts are being released in public domain for wider proliferation of benefits of Language Technology to masses. This will help common people to take benefit of the IT, in their own languages and a help developers to build solutions. So far CDs containing software tools and fonts for Assamese, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu languages have been released. Software tools and fonts for other languages are being consolidated/developed for release. The released software tools can be downloaded from *http://www.ildc.in* website.

Research and Development projects in consortium mode have been initiated in the area of Machine Translation, Cross Lingual Information Access and Optical Character Recognition.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. TDIL programme's vision is "Enabling masses to build knowledge society"; to develop information processing tools to facilitate human machine interaction in Indian languages and to create and access multilingual knowledge resources/content.

A number of initiatives have been taken towards development of software tools and technologies for Indian Languages under the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) programme.

The language technology (LT) development activities are being implemented through various academic and R&D institutions across India. The TDIL Working Group evaluates and recommends the various project proposals submitted to TDIL Programme for implementation/funding. These projects are further monitored by Project Monitoring and Steering Groups (PRSGs) specially setup for specific projects. TDIL Working Group and Project Monitoring and Steering Groups consist of experts drawn from academia, industry, R&D organizations and Government.

Financial Arrangement:

The present financial year (2008-09) budget for the TDIL Programme for funding various R&D projects for development of language technologies is Rs. 789.0 Lakhs including Rs. 100.0 Lakhs for the North-East region.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Department of Information Technology is engaged in development of software tools and technologies for Indian Languages including Hindi.

1. The various software tools developed under the Programme are being released in public domain for benefits of Information Technology to people. The CD released for Hindi contains the following Software Tools and fonts:—

   Fonts with keyboard drivers; Fronts Code Converter; Bharateeya Open Office; Firefox browser; GAIM messenger; COLUMBA – E-mail client; Hindi OCR; Assam Typing Tutor for Hindi and English; Integrated World Processor; Dictionary; English-Hindi; Spell checker; Transliteration tool and text to Speech system.

   Similar tools and fonts are also being released for the other languages.

   So far CDs containing software tools and fonts for Assamese, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu languages have been released. Software tools and fonts for other languages are being consolidated/developed for release. The released software tools can be downloads from *http://www.ildc.in* website.

2. Under "Content Creation and IT Localization" project, e-content in Hindi., of approximately 16000 HTML and Dynamic pages in the domains of health, education, tourism and agri-business have been created.

3. Development projects for "English to Indian Languages" (Eight pairs) and "Indian Languages to Indian Languages" (Nine bidirectional pairs) Machine Translation systems, Cross Lingual Information Access and Optical Character Recognition System in specific domains have been initiated.

(g) Does not arise.

Delay in implementation of projects

1032. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects, including the joint venture projects of his Ministry, its PSUs and subordinate offices costing over 20 crore or more are running behind schedule;

(b) the details thereof, PSU-wise and subordinate office-wise;

(c) the reasons for the delay in each case and the total estimated loss to the exchequer; and

(d) what are the changes proposed in these projects to complete them expeditiously and to save expenditure?